



Testimony
Elizabeth Gara, Executive Director
Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA)
Before the
Public Safety Committee
February 15, 2011

The Connecticut Water Works Association (CWWA) supports **HB-6110, An Act Requiring Doubled Fines for Certain Violations in Municipal Construction Zones and Prohibiting Municipalities from Requiring Police Supervision of Construction Zones.**

Maintaining and replacing Connecticut's water infrastructure requires water companies to perform a variety of construction projects on municipal roadways. In performing this work, the safety of the workers, motorists and pedestrians is paramount. CWWA therefore supports efforts to impose doubled fines for certain violations in municipal construction zones.

CWWA also supports Section 2 of the bill which prohibits towns from requiring a police officer to supervise traffic at a construction zone on a municipal road. In order to provide residents and businesses with a safe, adequate supply of water, we need to make sure that construction projects are performed responsibly, both in terms of safety and cost. We believe that often times these projects can be performed safely and at a reduced cost by ensuring that flaggers may be used to direct traffic safely away from the work zone.

Some towns in Connecticut, however, require police to be used for all road work assignments regardless of whether there is a need for traffic control or not. This imposes unnecessary costs on projects involving road excavation - costs which are borne by ratepayers. Flagmen, used by the state Department of Transportation and some area towns for road work, are paid the state's prevailing wage of about \$27 an hour, while police officers often are paid \$65 an hour or more. It also imposes additional burdens on municipalities because requiring police supervision of all construction zones increases pension liabilities.

By allowing utilities to use road flaggers on construction projects, the safety of work zones will not be compromised and projects will be performed more efficiently.

CWWA therefore urges you to support this bill.

The Connecticut Water Works Association, Inc. (CWWA) is an association of private, municipal and regional public water supply utilities serving more than 500,000 customers, or population of about 2½ million people, located throughout Connecticut.